

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING POST-EVENT SUMMARY REPORT

WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON AGING AGENDA AREA: HEALTH AND LONG TERM LIVING

Name of Event: Seminar on Health Care Concerns of Women As They Age:
Long Term Care

Date of the Event: 01/06/2005

Location of the Event: The Chicago Bar Association, 321 South Plymouth
Court, Chicago, Illinois

Number of Persons Attending: 100

Sponsoring Organizations: The Joint Task Force on Issues Affecting Women
as They Age of The Chicago Bar Association and Women's Bar Association of
Illinois

Contact Name: Beth McMeen

Telephone Number: 312-554-2051

Email: bmcmeen@chicagobar.org

EVENT SUMMARY:

Over one hundred persons including professionals, students, retirees, advocates and educators attended this first session of an educational series sponsored by the Task Force. This session format featured a moderator and panelists who spoke on various aspects of the current efforts to re-structure the long term care system in Illinois. The panel presentation was followed by an open discussion with all attendees. After the general session, the Task Force members convened to review the material presented, discuss it with several of the panelists and formulate a priority area for the 2005 White House Conference on Aging. A full list of attendees and organizational affiliations is attached to this report. The priority issue set forth in this report does not necessarily reflect the individual opinions of those present.

PRIORITY ISSUE

A complete re-design of the current, national long term care system is needed. We should consider the transformation of our current system of older adult services from funding a primarily facility-based service delivery system to a home and community based system, taking into account the continuing need for 24 hour skilled nursing care and congregate housing with services. We must design a system with a range of services appropriate to needs in a variety of packages that are affordable and desirable.

Barriers:

- There is currently no focus on planning for current and projected long term care needs of the aging population within the Federal Government. Planning efforts are fragmented among the levels of government, within departments and agencies, and do not involve all concerned entities, especially older persons.
- We do not have actuarially sound data on the real cost of long term care per individual. We also do not know the real numbers of anticipated care or the sources of funding.
- The current Medicare/Medicaid rules impede coordination/cost containment/streamlining at the client level, as do multiple points of regulation for different levels and types of long term care.
- The Nursing Home Industry is viewed as a competitor for home based care rather than a colleague and a resource.

Solutions:

- The Task Force offers a suggested solution for Long Term Care Planning in the recently enacted Illinois Older Adult Services Act (**Illinois Public Act 93-1031**). The Act was developed over several years by administrators, providers and advocates. It reflects the following principles which must be basic to any redesign of our long term care system:
 - A basic set of services available in all areas
 - Services of the highest quality, client-focused, consumer-directed and cost-effective
 - Services designed to meet the changing needs and preferences of the individual and his/her family

- Services focused on assisting individuals to remain as independent and as involved as possible, regardless of their residential setting.
- Among the Act's requirements are:
- The designation of the State Unit on Aging as the lead agency to develop a restructuring plan in consultation with the Departments of Public Health and Public Aid.
 - Preparation of a complete inventory and assessment of services and funding resources currently available.
 - The designation of priority service areas and expansion of services that promote independence and permit older adults to remain in their own homes and communities.
 - Demonstration grants to assist in the restructuring of the delivery system.
 - The development of a comprehensive, universal assessment tool to determine level of functional, cognitive, socialization and financial needs of older adults.
- The Task Force acknowledges a powerful model tool within the Act: the creation of the **Older Adult Services Advisory Committee** to advise the designated planning agencies on all matters related to the restructuring effort which specifically includes representatives of nursing homes, home health agencies, case management agencies, service providers, caregivers and so forth so that member entities can begin the process of reframing their roles and redefining how they can be used as resources to disabled older persons and their caregivers along a continuum of care
- Illinois Public Act 93-1031, enacted 09/09/04, can be read in its entirety at <http://www.ilga.gov/legislation/publicacts/fulltext.asp?name=093-1031&GA=093>

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